

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 148

Introduced by Assembly Member Zettel

January 29, 2001

An act to add Chapter 8.4 (commencing with Section 52248) to Part 28 of the Education Code, relating to education technology, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 148, as introduced, Zettel. Education technology within the public schools.

Existing law, the Digital High School Education Technology Grant Act of 1977, provides one-time installation, and ongoing support and staff training, grants to school districts and county offices of education for projects at high schools.

Existing law establishes the Education Technology Grant Program to provide one-time grants to school districts and charter schools to acquire computers, gives first priority to high schools that offer less than 4 advanced placement courses, including funding for related equipment, wiring, or infrastructure. The law requires the Office of the Secretary for Education to administer the application process for the award of grants.

This bill would establish the California Middle or Junior High School Internet Wiring Grant Program of the 21st Century and would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer the grant program to provide funding for middle or junior high school internet wiring. The bill would require the State Department of Education to adopt related regulations. The bill would appropriate \$_____ to the superintendent for these purposes.

The funds appropriated by this bill would be applied toward the minimum funding requirements for school districts and community college districts imposed by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 8.4 (commencing with Section 52248) is added to Part 28 of the Education Code, to read:

CHAPTER 8.4. CALIFORNIA MIDDLE OR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
INTERNET WIRING ACT of the 21st CENTURY

52248. (a) This chapter shall be known, and may be cited as, the “California Middle or Junior High School Internet Wiring Act of the 21st Century.”

(b) There is hereby established the California Middle or Junior High School Internet Wiring Grant Program with the following objectives:

(1) To provide all middle or junior high school classrooms with the basic infrastructure needed to connect to the Internet and take advantage of new learning opportunities available online.

(2) To improve pupil achievement by allowing pupils and teachers the opportunity to access information and other educational resources available online in an expedient and economical way.

(3) To lay the groundwork for schools, teachers, and pupils to engage in educational modalities that will become increasingly vital in future years.

(c) In order to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this chapter, a school district maintaining a middle or junior high school shall do all of the following:

(1) Submit an application, established by the State Department of Education, detailing an expenditure plan for achieving the purposes of this chapter.

(2) Provide a local match that is not less than one-half of the amount of the state grant.

1 (d) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall review all
2 applications and shall make a recommendation for approval to the
3 State Board of education regarding those applications that meet the
4 requirements of the program.

5 (e) The State Department of Education shall adopt regulations
6 necessary to adequately implement this chapter.

7 (f) (1) The sum of ____ dollars (\$____) is hereby
8 appropriated, without regard to fiscal year, from the General Fund
9 to the Superintendent of Public Instruction exclusively for
10 allocation to school districts for grants to hardwire school
11 buildings with the appropriate infrastructure to support online
12 educational technology capabilities pursuant to this chapter.

13 (2) The appropriation made pursuant to this section is a
14 one-time appropriation made in the 2001–02 fiscal year for
15 allocation, without regard to fiscal year, for the purposes of this
16 chapter. However, it is the intent of the Legislature to annually
17 provide subsequent similar appropriations of equal or greater
18 amounts for the purposes of this chapter. It is, further, the intent of
19 the Legislature to annually provide adequate funding until every
20 middle or junior high school has been provided with sufficient
21 wiring infrastructure to support online instructional opportunities.

